

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE  
SARL NEWS SUNDAY 1999 SEPTEMBER 19

This is Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL transmitting Amateur Radio News , a service from the South African Radio League for the interest of all Radio Amateurs, Short-wave Listeners and Electronic Enthusiasts. For a complete list of broadcast times and frequencies please send a SASE to Amateur Radio News, SARL, P O Box 1721 Strubensvallei 1735. This bulletin is also available on the SARL's web pages hosted by Intekom at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za).

NEWS HEADLINES:

- WESTERN CAPE REPEATERS NOW FITTED WITH CTCSS DECODING
- SUNSAT NOW SCHEDULED TO OPERATE ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS
- eHAM HACKED

You are tuned to ZS6SRL, the news in detail next.

SILENT KEYS

We regret to announce the passing away of Robert Byrnes ZS1RU on 29 August after a heart attack. To his family and friends we extend our condolences.

The Boland Amateur Radio Klub regrets to announce the passing away of one of their members. Louis von Mollendorf ZS1HE passed away on Sunday 12 September after a long illness. To his wife, Santie and children we extend our condolences.

(PAUSE 5 COUNTS)

You are tuned to ZS6SRL.

IARU MEETING TO START TODAY

The IARU Region 1 tri-annual meeting starts in Lillyhammer , Norway at noon today when the first Plenary session will be opened by Robert Jones, the Director of the ITU Radiocommunications Bureau. South Africa will be represented by Hans Potgieter ZS6ALJ, Dennis Green ZS4BU and John Fielding ZS5JF. Hans van de Groenendaal ZS5AKV will also be attending as IARU Executive Committee member. The South African delegation also holds a proxy for Zimbabwe.

South Africa has an important item on the Agenda of Committee C5 which deals with VHF/UHF matters. The SARL papers requests the conference to ratify use of 144,450, 144,470 and 144,490 MHz as uplink frequencies for manned space operations from the new International Space Station and to encourage European Societies who occupy this section of the 2 metre band to make more efficient use of the band by timesharing beacons. The proposal is opposed by some western

European Societies who have displayed little or no interest in development of Amateur Radio amongst the youth.

Another important issue is the bandplanning for 70cm and the treat in Europe to have the current allocation reduced.

ON HF matters the SARL will also seek support for use of SSB on 10MHz as currently contained in a special footnote. The IARU HF Beacon co-ordinator has tabled a proposal to accept the recommendations to allow beacons on 160, 80 and 40m in countries south of the equator.

Full details of the conference will be reported in the next two editions of SARL NEWS and in the December edition of Radio ZS. Information will also be posted on the SARL web pages at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za).

#### WESTERN CAPE REPEATERS NOW FITTED WITH CTCSS DECODING

In an attempt to reduce breakthrough and interference on Western Cape repeaters, CTCSS decoding facilities have been fitted on the 145.600 repeater, situated near Bellville, as well as the 145.650 repeater, situated on du Toit-skloof. The 145.625 repeater situated on Tygerberg and linked to the Southern Cape Network will be fitted with CTCSS next.

Standard 88,5 Hz tone, available as a standard in most modern VHF radios.

Visitors to Cape Town, without CTCSS facilities, will still be able to access the 145.700 and 145.750 repeaters. These two repeaters will only be switched over to CTCSS in the new year.

#### US HAMS HELP EAST COAST TO WEATHER THE STORM

Ham radio volunteers along the East Coast from Florida through the New England States put their personal lives on hold for several days this week to volunteer for Hurricane Floyd duty. The huge storm, which sparked the largest mass evacuation in US history, caused a cascading series of Amateur Radio Emergency Service and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service activations, starting in Florida and moving steadily northward. After sweeping ashore early Thursday, the by then fast-moving storm pushed past New Jersey and New York into New England and began to dissipate. The storm cleanup and recovery have begun.

#### eHAM HACKED

eHam.net is hacked: The new eHam.net Amateur Radio site (<http://www.eham.net>) reports that it was the victim of hackers the weekend of September 10-12. eHam.net's Bill Fisher, W4AN, says hackers apparently from Southeast Asia were using the eHam.net server in an effort to break into government agency sites in the US. As a result, eHam.net began receiving phone calls from the US Defense Department, NASA, and other government agencies on September 10. "A quick look at our server revealed that we had indeed been hacked and that someone was running a process on our machine that was trying to gain

information about computers in a lot of different government and university computer systems,” Fisher said. He said eHam.net removed the program and attempted to close loopholes, but September 11, the intruders deleted all of the files on the eHam.net system. eHam.net says it has beefed up security, and expects no further problems.—eHam.net

#### SUNSAT SCHEDULE

Sunsat has been programmed to operate on Mode B on Saturday and Sundays. Here is the schule for the next few weeks.

19 September Africa 09:20 - 09:35

25 September Africa 10:18 - 10:33

26 September Africa 09:39 - 09:54

2 October Africa 10:38 - 10:54

3 October

Africa 09:57 - 10:12

9 October Africa 09:16 - 09:32

10 October

Africa 10:16 - 10:34

Mode B has an uplink = 436.291 MHz and Downlink = 145.825 MHz To allow for doppler shif on the uplink use 436.285 at the start of the pass, switch to 346,290 half into the pass and 436,295 toward the end of the pass.

Please send your comments and experience to [saamsat@intekom.co.za](mailto:saamsat@intekom.co.za)

#### SUNSAT AWARD

SA AMSAT has announced exciting SUNSAT Awards. Three levels will be awarded : Bronze for contacts with 25 different stations on SUNSAT, Silver for 50 contacts and gold for 100 contacts. Only one contact per pass may be claimed for the award and a station may only be worked once for the purpose of the Award.

Short-wave listeners will also qualify by logging two contacts heard. SWL's are not limited to claiming one contact per pass.

To apply for the award submit extract of your log verified by the Chairman of your local radio club or two other radio Amateurs. The cost of the award is R10 or \$5 to cover mailing costs. For full details send a SASE to SA AMSAT at P O Box 1842, Hillcrest or send your Email details to [saamsat@intekom.co.za](mailto:saamsat@intekom.co.za).

#### WIN WITH THE SARL MONTHLY DRAW COMPETITION

Have you entered the SARL Monthly Draw competitions? Details were mailed to members last week. The competition offers members participation in 12 monthly draws for cash prizes for a once of entry. The cost per entry is R30

per unit. The first draw will take place in October and thereafter every month. The prize value depends on the number of entries received. Please enter as soon as possible. The entry form may be copied and you may enter as many R30 units as you like. A percentage of the competition will be applied for the NARC Development and Education in Amateur Radio. You may also request that a form is faxed or Emailed to you. Call the SARL voicemail line on 088 120 5042 or Email [sarlnews@intekom.co.za](mailto:sarlnews@intekom.co.za) for a copy.

Good luck and thank you for your support.

#### FLUX LEVELS TO CONTINUE TO INCREASE THIS WEEK

For the period 17 to 23 September Dwight West ZS6NT reports that solar activity will be low to Moderate. Flux levels will continue to increase. Flare activity can be expected during this forecast period. Geo-magnetic conditions will remain quiet to active with occasional minor storm conditions. Geo-magnetic conditions should stabilise later. Conditions will generally be unstable, but improve later.

For the period 10 to 16 September solar activity was low, becoming Moderate on the 16th. The solar flux increased slowly to 158. The A-index ranged between 21 and 31. Geo-magnetic conditions were quiet to minor storm. A minor storm began at 03h00 UTC on September 13. Conditions were unsteady.

#### DIARY OF ACTIVITY

The SARL VHF Contest is in full swing this weekend. It started yesterday, Saturday 18 September and will end today, Sunday 19 September at 12:00 noon.

The Pretoria Amateur Radio Club will be holding its usual spring flea market and bootsale on Saturday, 25 September starting at 08:30 in the parking area near the clubhouse on the south campus of the University of Pretoria. For further information and booking of tables, please contact Hans ZS6KR at 012 333 2612 or [hans@smartnet.co.za](mailto:hans@smartnet.co.za).

SAATI will be holding their AGM at the Lyttleton Library at Cantonments Road on Monday September 27, 1999 19:00 for 20:00 SAST. The meeting is followed by a cheese and wine. Radio amateurs and their families are welcome to attend.

Radio Clubs are invited to supply information for inclusion in the Diary of events. Information must reach the SARL News Service by not later than two weeks before the event. Information may be faxed to 031 765-6456 or by Email to: [sarlnews@intekom.co.za](mailto:sarlnews@intekom.co.za). Please note the correct Email address.

The South African Radio League provides this bulletin of news as a service to Radio Amateurs and interested listeners on the African Continent. Join us on Sundays at 12:00 for the President's Net on 7082 kHz. This bulletin was written by ZS5AKV and read by ..

News in this bulletin was provided by the SARL News Service, Amateur Radio Clubs in South Africa, Amateur Radio Online and the ARRL .

Every Sunday you are invited to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International. The programme is on the air on Sundays at 10:00 SAST on 9750 and 21530 kHz and repeated on Mondays at 20:00 SAST on 3215 kHz. Sentech, the common carrier for broadcasting signals in South Africa and Telkom who provides the transmission lines, sponsor these transmissions. The following VHF frequencies are also activated from the Sentech Meyerton Transmitter site: 145,375 for the Northern Free State and Vaal triangle areas and 145,400 covering the greater Johannesburg area. In the Johannesburg and Pretoria area the programme is also relayed on 439,100MHz. In the greater Durban area there is a relay on 145,650 MHz and in Pretoria on 145,750 MHz

ends - ZS5AKV.